

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The broadcast flag will limit my ability to copy DTV content for my own use, but it won't stop someone who is already breaking the law from buying or building something to continue making illegal copies.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Can new and old equipment be used together? It seems that it would be easy to use older equipment with newer pieces to get around the Broadcast flag, and if that is possible, they will have to prevent that from happening. That will inturn make all existing equiptment obsolete, and unnecessarilly increase costs to consumers.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Developing new technology is very complex and time consuming, by adding one more feature, it only makes it that much harder. But even more so, adding a feature that is going to be attempted to be disabled by many means that even more time has to be spent on something that they nomally don't need to think about. Where as the engineers don't spend any time making sure that they TV tuner can not be tuned to an nonstandard frequency by the educated end user (there is no reason to do so, and it does no harm if someone does), now they have to spend extra time trying to make the feature "hack proof".

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The broadcast flag can ONLY increase the cost of consumer electronics, and as the flag is used, and hacked, and then made more complex, that price will only increase.

Other Comments:

The MPAA and RIAA are in a bad position, they have been the big guns, owning an monopoly on an industry, but the world has changed around them. Instead of changing their business plan, as any non-monopoly company would do, they instead try to force laws so they can keep operating the same way. These laws, such as the broadcast flag, would hinder developement of new technologies, as it would be illegal for most people/companies to experiment with them. They also can not possibly control illegal use without hindering fair use. As a licensed Ham Radio Operator (NOFI), I am fearful of the far reaching affects these laws will have on us law abiding citizens who are always experimenting with technology. There seems to be no way that they can enact laws that are far reaching enough to be effective without severly hindering legitimate use, and technological progress.

Technology has enabled the "little guys" to be able to make and distribute content that is comparable to the big guys. For the first time, one person can put together a document, musical piece, or video and distribute it online without the need to go through a bloated MPAA or RIAA. These corporations need to focus thier time on rewritig thier business plan to fit with future technology, not trying to legislate technology to fit with

thier business plan.